



Some personal thoughts and news about the District 7 Fire Relief Forum Wednesday Night . . .

I want to express my heartfelt sympathies to those who lost their homes and express our gratitude and thanks to the firefighters who saved so many others.

From our Fire Chief Jeff Bowman and Police Chief Bill Lansdowne, San Diego's fire and law enforcement professionals have been at their best as we endured a firestorm unlike anything ever before seen in San Diego.

This is one of those events where most likely we either are related to or know someone who was affected in one way or another because of this unforgiving firestorm.

As I write this email Tuesday evening, fire is heading toward Julian with surrounding areas having already been ravaged during the day. We have heard from California Department of Forestry (CDF) that it will be at least a week or possibly two before this fire is contained and even longer before it's under control.

Many have asked – how they can help those in need. The American Red Cross can be reached at 619-542-7400 or via the Internet at www.sdarc.org

If you want to provide labor, vehicles, food, or money, the Red Cross is the best place to help in coordinating relief efforts.

For those residents of my district in Tierrasanta who lost their homes or were damaged due to the fires, I am available along with my office to personally assist in anyway possible. If you or you know of someone in need, please do not hesitate to call my office at 619-236-6677. We are here to help. We are also bringing the experts to you in a special program in Tierrasanta.

As one who personally witnessed the heroic efforts of our firefighters, I can say without a doubt these heroes did their very best with conditions unlike anything we have ever seen. At one point in Tierrasanta alone there were no less than 25 simultaneous fires raging out of control throughout the community. These fires, with flames over 100 feet high, were set off by numerous hot flying embers,

blinded from view by dark smoke and wind that rendered air support impossible. Fighting these fires turned into an effort of on the ground combat and successes that can be measured by the many homes saved as oppose to those that were lost.

There is also no question, in cases where brush was trimmed far away from a home, or where roofs were of concrete tile and not shake shingles, those homes had a much better chance for survival. There is also no question at this point that we in San Diego should consider a mandate that all wooden shake roofs be replaced. I am sure we could work with our state and federal elected leaders to arrange for a low interest loan program to help facilitate changing these roofs.

In closing let me again thank those who have been so brave and those residents who have come to the aid of their neighbors in need. Our communities are strong and cohesive. Disasters such as this fire bring out so much good in people and I feel confident as we work to rebuild, we will be a much stronger and better City as a result.

Below I am sharing with you several photos to perhaps provide a glimpse of the horrific scenes from Sunday and Monday both in the Tierrasanta and San Carlos areas.

Jim Madaffer

PS: We apologize if a few of you may have received a duplicate email. We are working to correct this problem within the next week.



**SAN DIEGO - AS SEEN SUNDAY MORNING FROM
50 MILES EAST ON I-8.**



Tierrasanta as seen from Hwy 52 on Sunday

**A view of the Mission Trails Visitor Center as
the fire crept eastward on Sunday evening**



**Bridge into western entrance of
Mission Trails Regional Park on fire**






